



Retreating Arctic sea ice cover, 1979–2003. The points plotted are annual average sea ice extents. (Data for 1979–1987 from the SMMR instrument on the Nimbus 7 satellite and for 1987–2003 from the SSMI instruments on the DMSP F8, F11, and F13 satellites; figure extended from a graph in C. L. Parkinson, D. J. Cavalieri, P. Gloersen, H. J. Zwally, and J. C. Comiso, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, vol. 104, no. C9, pp. 20,837–20,856, 1999; background photograph by Claire Parkinson.)